

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 L-03 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 SSM-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 H-02 /153 W
-----034791 070908Z /12

R 061813Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1713
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: OPENING OF SECOND 1978 REGULAR ECOSOC SESSION

1. SUMMARY: SECOND 1978 ECOSOC SESSION OPENED WITH SHORT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT MILLS (JAMAICA) STRESSING NEED FOR PROGRESS IN RESTRUCTURING, CONCRETE ACTION, AND NIEO. HE CHARACTERIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) AS "AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE" TO ECOSOC. UN SYG'S OPENING STATEMENT STRESSED WORLD ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS MEETING AT THE COMING BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO IMPROVE WORLD ECONOMY AND RESTIMULATE DEVELOPMENT. ADOPTION OF AGENDA MARKED BY STRONG OBJECTION FROM ETHIOPIA TO INCLUSION OF ITEM ON ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES OF THE OGADEN AND AN EQUALLY STRONG INSISTENCE BY SOMALIA TO ITS RETENTION. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF AGENDA, US AND FRG (FOR EC-9) REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WAS MISPLACED UNDER ITEM 28 CONCERNING DECOLONIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND 1978 REGULAR ECOSOC SESSION BEGAN JULY 5
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WITH A SHORT STATEMENT BY ECOSOC PRESIDENT. MILLS CHARACTERIZED THIS SESSION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD ON RESTRUCTURING AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP, COHERENCE AND CONCRETE ACTIONS. HE ALSO ADDRESSED QUESTION OF PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT A WEAKNESS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS HAD ON

EFFORTS TO THIS END. HE CALLED FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES AT THE GLOBAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. MILLS ALSO VIEWED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COW AS "AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE TO THE COUNCIL" GIVEN THE COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING ITS OWN WORKING ARRANGEMENTS.

3. WALDHEIM FOCUSED HIS SPEECH ON THE DISQUIETING WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE CRITICIZED THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM FOR NOT ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES AND OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. HE HOPED THAT THE NIEO THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED WILL BE ONE THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO CURRENT ECONOMIC REALITIES AND CONCENTRATES ON IMPLEMENTING REFORMS THAT WILL ALLOW THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY TO FIND AN ANSWER TO STRUCTURAL DIFFICULTIES. WALDHEIM CALLED ON NATIONS TO WORK IN AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT EXISTS, SUCH AS THE GROWING AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. SUCH EFFORTS CAN LEAD TO PLANNING COMMON INTERNATIONAL ACTION. THESE EFFORTS CAN AIM AT MAJOR SHARED PROBLEMS: AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES. HE ALSO CALLED ON WEALTHY NATIONS, INCLUDING OPEC STATES, TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO AID PROGRAMS WHICH FACE EFFECTIVELY DIMINISHING RESOURCES. THE SYG NOTED THAT THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION OF DEVELOPING STATES MUST BE IMPROVED AND THAT THE KEY IN THIS IS THE PROVISIONS THAT ATTACH TO OFFERS OF SHORT TERM CREDIT. WALDEIM OBSERVED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO FORECAST A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON SOME POINTS OF

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PRIME ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE. TO TAKE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONVERGENCE THERE MUST BE A POLITICAL CLIMATE FAVORABLE TO COMPROMISES; ALL NATIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THAT CLIMATE. BUT THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WHO WILL MEET SHORTLY IN BONN. THEIR ECONOMIES ARE SO IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD SYSTEM THAT ANY PROGRESS THEY MAKE IN HARMONIZING THEIR VIEWS WILL BE CRUCIAL TO THE WHOLE WORLD. IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS THEY MUST REMEMBER THE GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE AND THE SPECIAL EFFORT THEY MUST MAKE TO RESTIMULATE DEVELOPMENT. (FULL TEXT OF MILLS AND WALDHEIM STATEMENTS POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT IO/DHP.)

4. SMALL STIR INTERRUPTED ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AS ETHIOPIA STRONGLY OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF ITEM 6 (ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES OF THE OGADEN). SOMALIA INSISTED ON INCLUSION AND A COMPROMISE SUGGESTED BY THE NEW G-77 PRESIDENT (COLOMBIA) THAT THE ITEM BE HELD IN ABEYANCE WITHOUT PREJUDICE PENDING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN G-77, AFRICAN GROUP AND BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES, ALLOWED BUSINESS TO PROCEED.

5. NETHERLANDS PROPOSED THAT THE REPORT OF THE UNHCR BECOME A FORMAL PART OF THIS SESSION'S AGENDA IN ORDER TO ALLOW DISCUSSION OF THE SIZE OF THE HCR'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. COUNCIL THEN ADOPTED AGENDA BY CONSENSUS WITH QUESTION OF ITEM 6 STILL TO BE RESOLVED AND ADDITION OF ITEM ON REPORT OF THE UNHCR.

6. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF AGENDA, US DEL MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT, MY DELEGATION HAS PARTICIPATED IN ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA BY CONSENSUS,

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 SSM-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 H-02 /153 W
-----041861 070907Z /12

R 070847Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BUT WE WISH TO EXPRESS A RESERVATION ON ONE POINT. AS WE STATED AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL LAST JANUARY, OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT THE QUESTION OF "ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" IS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM -- AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED UNDER -- AGENDA ITEM 28, NAMELY "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS". PALESTINE, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE LIST OF COLONIAL TERRITORIES ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE PROBLEM IS VERY DIFFERENT. HENCE, IN OUR VIEW THESE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS. UNQUOTE. FRG DEL THEN RECALLED ON BEHALF OF EEC, THE EEC STATEMENT AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL 1978 IN CONNECTION WITH THE TWO QUESTIONS NOW INCLUDED UNDER THAT ITEM. ON THAT OCCASION, THEY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION THAT THESE TWO SUBJECTS ARE

UNRELATED AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND DEALT WITH
SEPARATELY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA10234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-1164
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780792/aaaaczfd.tel
Line Count: 171
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf78827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2107506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING OF SECOND 1978 REGULAR ECOSOC SESSION
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf78827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014